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# HISTORY

of

## THE OAK GROVE CHURCH (PARTIST)

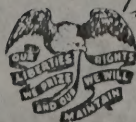
Marion Township Henry County Iowa

Written in 1938

-by-

Iva Scheffel and Ora Scheffel Anderson, great, great, great  
grand-daughters of William and Elizabeth (Allensworth) Remy,  
the oldest pioneers buried in Oak Grove Cemetery.

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Rec Center Dist Bldg.  
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the church, and finally the hard work,  
eight-backed pews and a pulpit were carefully laid.  
Steven earned the name on the days were told.  
re characters

Scheffel, Iva

History of the Oak Grove Church  
(Baptist) Marion twp.  
(Henry co., Iowa)

Book being xeroxed from Iowa Bicent record center

in joys and sorrows to lovingly share,  
labored to free their church from debt  
crowning success they finally met.

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generation of friends, that admires and reveres  
courage and ideals of these early pioneers,  
be across the country, from the red states to







## The Little Brick Church At Oak Grove.

In eighteen-hundred and thirty-five,  
When Iowa Churches were becoming alive,  
Some members of the Primitive Baptist Church  
For a site to build began to search.

In Henry County Iowa in eighteen-sixty three,  
Just south of a sturdy old burr oak tree,  
Near the bank of Lynn Creek's sylvan stream  
They found a place to worship, God's love to redeem.

There by rugged hill and Oak grove shade  
These pioneers, with care, very reverently made  
The little brick church so pleasant and warm  
And built it to stand through cyclone and storm.

Inside the church, all rustic and hand made,  
Streight-backed pews and a pulpit were carefully laid.  
Wood stoves warmed the room when the days were cold,  
Where characters fine their faith did mould.

Though their songs of grace no longer resound,  
Fruits of their efforts may yet be found.  
For wholesome influences of the men of Oak Grove  
Have radiated far from that hillside cove.

Through many long years of toil and care,  
With joys and sorrows to lovingly share,  
They labored to free their church from debt  
And crowning sucess they finally met.

This generation of friends, that admires and reveres  
The courage and ideals of these early pioneers,  
Now see across the commons, from the road winding by  
The little brick silhouetted against the sky.

After seventy-five years of use and storm  
The church still stands in its original form.  
The descendants now view with kindest regard  
The Oak Grove Church and silent Church yard.

Today they lie resting in this old church yard  
These pioneers who were called to receive their reward.  
There are Eighteen Twelve and Civil War Veterans graves  
Besides one who fought with the Black Hawk Braves.

Over unmarked graves the waving grasses have grown  
Since relatives and friends and burial plots are unknown.  
On tombstones are found records for all to share  
Of six generations of one family now buried there.

Ora Scheffel Anderson. 1938.





In Henry County, in Marion Township, stands one of the oldest brick churches of the state. In the churchyard cemetery are buried six generations of one of the first members of the church.

Minutes of the Primitive Baptist Faith whose members built this church disclose the following history.

"Rise of the Regular Baptist in Iowa Territory".

"Early in the spring of 1835, Elder Samuel Hutton, Claibourn Jones Sr. and Jesse Hancock with their families, Elder George Walton and a number of scattering female Baptists settled in what is now constituted Henry County Iowa Territory, it was then attached to Michigan Territory, in the summer of 1836 it was constituted Wisconsin Territory and in the summer of 1838 it was constituted Iowa Territory. We mention these circumstances merely for information in time to come.

Some time in the month of June in the year of our Lord 1835, Elder James Cholsen from North Fork Church of Regular Baptists in Hamilton County Ill. and William Morrow, a licentate from Bethel Creek Church in Gallatin County Ill. while exploring the far west, stopped and preached at the house of Jesse Hancock. This is supposed to be the first regular Baptist preaching in this section of the country.

In the month of September in the same year Wm. Morrow moved to the same place. Things passed smoothly until the first Saturday in Aug. 1836, when we were constituted into a church by Elders Geo, Walton and Samuel Hutton.

We, a body of Regular Baptists, situated on Big Creek, north side of the Manitou or Skunk River and the vicinity of Mt. Pleasant Des, Moines County, Wisconsin Territory, having met together at the house of Claibourn Jones for the purpose of becoming a constituted church of Jesus Christ, and first giving ourselves to the Lord, as

we hope, and being fully convinced of the truth of the Christian





together in a church way in the presence, and we hope in the fear of our God, give ourselves to one another to watch over in Christian prudence and tenderness, and to keep up the worship of God amongst us, and having present with us Elders Samuel Hutton and George Walton as councils called on them to examine into our state, proceeded to choose Elder Geo. Walton M.D. (Moderator) and brother Wm. M. Morrow, clerk.

We the council or Presbytery, being in order proceeded to do business by calling for letters of dismission and the brethren and sisters presented their letters as follows-

James Willowford Sr. and Jane Willowford his wife  
Mary Johnson  
Polly Hutton consort of Elder Hutton  
Claibourn Jones and Elizabeth Jones his wife  
Lavina Hancock  
Jesse Hancock ordained deacon and wife Amelia  
Wm. M. Morrow a licentate and Elizabeth Morrow his wife  
Mary Paris  
Lavincy Turner  
Susy Hampton  
Anny Cisemore  
Elders Samuel Hutton and George Walton.

These were the original members, and among others who soon came and played an important part in carrying on the work of the church were the following-

Benjamin Cholson, eighteenth member and his wife Jane Cholson who were received by letter in Jan. 1837  
William Haden Lyon, twenty-first member and his wife Mary (Britton) Lyon who were received by letter William in Feb. 1839 and Polly in April 1840, altho they came to Iowa in April 1838.  
William Remy, thirtieth member and his wife Elizabeth Remy with others of their family, Solomon and Sally (Remy) Cole, Savera (Remy) Abacrombie, Dorcas Remy, soon Dorcas Dutton, who were all received in June 1841.  
Chas. G. Yount joined in the spring or summer of 1848.

Through the years others were received either by letter, by relation or by confession of faith and baptism.

In June 1838 the church chose Brethren Jesse Hancock, Wm. H. Lyon and Benjamin Cholson, who were regular ordained deacons to





officiate in their official offices of the church. This indicates W. H. Lyon was an officer of the church before he transferred his letter.

As already stated the first meeting was in June 1835, and the Big Creek Church was organized the first Saturday in August 1836. On August 6th, they met again and accepted eleven Articles of Faith. In March 1837, nineteen rules of Decorum were presented and accepted and later two Resolutions were adopted.

Elder Geo. Walton was the first moderator and William Morrow the first clerk of the church. The Elders were their ministers. Among the early Elders were George Walton, Eicajah B. Rowland, Samuel Hutton, James Gillmore, William Morrow, Isaac McCarty and John B. Rowland. The last Elders were J. F. Flint and P. L. Nay.

Since Wm. Morrow was an Elder he was soon replaced as clerk by deacon Wm. H. Lyon, who held this office until Aug. 1853. In 1860 his son P. W. Lyon became clerk and held the position until his death in 1909. The last clerk was Mrs. Lorena Dallner now of Fairfield, Iowa, a daughter of P. W. Lyon.

Through out the minutes of this early church we find the following men being sent, three and four at a time, to answer the call from other groups to help organize other Baptist churches: Jesse Hancock, Wm. H. Lyon, Benj. Gholson, Geo. Walton, Samuel Hutton, Claybourn Jones and Wm. Morrow. The groups praying a Presbytery to help them constitute a new church were Round Prairie Jefferson Co. in Aug. 1837; Big Ceder, Van Buren Co., Aug. 1838; Round Prairie Henry Co., Sept. 1838; Trenton Henry Co. May 1840; one in Keokuk Co., Nov. 1845 and at the home of Henry Keltner Jefferson Co., 1847.

The History of Jefferson County by Chas. J. Fulton Vol. 1. page 3, has the following comments about the Baptist Church at





Round Prairie located west of skunk river and north of Ceder Creek.

" There were no churches, Religious services, however, were not lacking. The first service was held in the fall of 1836 in the home of James Larman. The preacher was Samuel Hutton, a Baptist who came over from Mt. Pleasant. He came many more times among the settlers and preached in many homes. They were essentially a religious people. These meetings were the social centers, all the vicinity attended them. They came on foot, on horse back and behind slow ox teams. The women carried their shoes on the way but wore them during the services." It was James Larman who sent the call to Big Creek Church to help constitute their church.

At their first meeting in Aug. 1836, the Big Creek Church voted to send delegates to Spoon River Association of Regular Baptists in Illinois, praying admittance into the union and fellowship of that body. In Aug. 1839 they voted to invite all Regular Baptists in the Iowa Territory to meet at Big Creek Church in October of the following year, for the purpose of forming an association and framing a constitution. In Oct. 1840, The association met with the following churches in attendance: Round Prairie, Lick Creek, and Fairfield of Jefferson Co.; Big Cedar, Trenton and Big Creek in Henry Co.. For many years Samuel Hutton, Wm. Morrow and Wm. H. Lyon were delegates to these associations.

The church answered many calls from other Regular Baptist churches to aid in ordaining Elders and Deacons, also licenses to preach were issued at different times. Samuel Hutton and Wm. H. Lyon were sent several times, at Fairfield's request, to assist in their communion services.

The meetings of Big Creek Church were held on the first Saturday and Sunday of each month for years but finally changed to the third





week of the month. On Saturday their unique form of services was as follows:-

- 1-Braise, prayer and preaching.
- 2- Visiting brethern invited to sit in council.
- 3- Inquired for peace and fellowship of the church.
- 4- Doors opened for the reception of members.
- 5- Business service conducted by their own rules of order.

Sunday was the regular preaching, some times by two ministers. The preaching was followed by baptisiral services, if any one was presented for baptism, which was always in running water. This probably explains the reason why so many of their churches were named after rivers or creeks. In the winter, the weather very often prevented them from having services. At first, the meetings were in homes, then at school houses and finally in the church. Members living at a considerable distance, would spend the night in the homes near the meeting place. Feather beds were placed on the floor to accomodate the guests. The women slept in one room and the men in another, except in warm weather the men slept in the hayloft.

They were a very devout people and very strict in the discipline of their members. Members were expelled, after being interviewed by a committee, of two or three, for swearing, dancing, intoxication etc,. If a member was absent from services with<sup>out</sup> cause for several meetings, a committee was appointed to learn the cause of this lack of interest in church services.





The history of Oak Grove Church is as followa; In March 1843, the following committee was selected to find a place to build a church, namely: Shedric Scott, Wm.H. Lyon and Wm. Morrow. In April three more men were added to assist the committee namely: Samuel Hutton, Wm. Remy and John Bledsoe. The combined committee was also to select the kind of building to build. In June 1843 the committee reported that two sites were available, one in Mt. Pleasant and the other on Brother Shedric Scott's land. In July the Mt. Pleasant site was selected but evidently nothing further was done because in November 1848 the proposition of building was brought up again. The Mt. Pleasant site was selected a second time but no further progress was made. There were discussions about building a church at almost every meeting from July 1849 until March 1850. when a committee was appointed, consisting of Samuel Hutton, Chas. G. Yount, Ephriam Garrison, Shedric Scott and Wm. H. Lyon. At the May meeting they presented three sites, one on Brother Shedric Scott's land, one on Brother Henry Stansbury's land and one in Mt. Pleasant. The Mt. Pleasant site was selected for the third time and a committee consisting of James Denny, Chas.G. Yount, Thomas Hutton and Wm. H. Lyon were appointed for the purpose of raising money to build the church.

They never built a church in Mt. Pleasant but in Aug. 1852 they decided to use the money raised to purchase the Christian Church in Mt. Pleasant in which they had been holding their meetings. In Sept. 1852 a committee consisting of Thomas Hutton, Chas. G. Yount and Wm. H. Lyon was appointed to close the contract for the meeting house. The building cost \$400.00 and in Sept. they had paid \$229.52 most of which had been raised by subscription at different times. A portion of the rest of the money was raised by renting





the church to be used as a school building for which they received as rental of three and sometimes four dollars a month.

Between meetings in 1855 they loaned the church to the Reform Church to be used for preaching.

In May 1855 the church organization was incorporated and their articles of faith were recorded with their articles of incorporation recorded in 1856 Book N.P. 194 Henry Co. Iowa. At that time the name of the church was changed from Big Creek Church to Mt. Pleasant Regular Baptist Church.

In May 1857 the church requested a deed from the Christian Church for their church house. The deed was obtained and recorded in Record Book R.P. 79 Henry Co. Ia.

Back in April 1851 they voted to meet every other time at the brick school house in Marian township, located near Lynn Creek and also near Brother Yount's house. In Nov. 1862 they voted to meet at the same brick school house near Lynn Creek during the winter.

In April 1863, evidently finding that location more satisfactory than the Mt. Pleasant Church, they voted to sell the Mt. Pleasant Church and build a new church in Marian township in the vicinity of Brother Yount's house. A committee composed of Isaac Mc, Carty, Thomas Sater and George Olinger was appointed to select a site for the new church. In May the committee reported that a site had been selected consisting of two acres of ground in N.W. corner of section 20 in Marian Township Henry Co., Ia. This plot was a portion of Sarah (Stansbury) Hull Rowland's land. Tradition in the family is that she donated the land.

The deed from Mrs. Sarah Rowland was dated Sept. 7th, 1862 recorded in Probate Records of pages 181 and 182 of Henry Co. Later, on the twenty-first day of May 1880 a new deed was made and filed in Book 28 page 187 to correct some omissions in the former





deed and was to take the place of the former deed and fully in every respect. It calls for two acres of land being twenty rods east and west and sixteen rods north and south in the north west corner of section 20 township 72 north of range 6 west. This land was deeded for the purpose of a meeting house and burial ground and for no other purpose.

James Denny was added to the committee and they were instructed to draw up plans for the building. In June the committee presented plans for a brick house twenty by forty feet by twelve feet tall with three windows on each side and one on the west side and the glass twelve by sixteen inches. There were to be two doors on the west side and a pulpit between. The report was accepted and the trustees were appointed to superintend the building of the house. The trustees were Brothers Thomas Sater, Samuel Taylor and P.W. Lyon. The brick for the church was burned and donated in part by John Traylor. The brick were hauled by John Black with an ox team. A large part of the labor was donated by members of the church. A Mr. Frisby was the builder.

In Nov. the trustees were authorized to borrow money to complete the church. In June 1863 the church "received the church house off of the hands of the trustees". In Dec. 1865, the church voted to levy a tax on the members to pay the "debt that stands against the church". In Feb. 1868 they agreed to settle with the trustees at the next meeting but it was not until in the spring of 1869 that they finally raised the last \$30.00 by subscription to finish paying for the church.

The name of the church at that time was changed from Mt. Pleasant Regular Baptist Church to Lynn Creel Oak Grove Church.

A visit to Oak Grove Church will reveal the following picture. The west half of the church plot is a commons used formerly for the hitching of teams and for the spreading of the noon lunches of the





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church attendance. In the early days there were many oak trees on the commons but only one tree stands there now.

A fence divides the commons from the church yard. The church facing west, built according to the specifications of the committee stands in about the middle of the extreme north part of the two acres. The church has been damaged twice by cyclones, the first time on June 17, 1882, and the second time on June 6, 1926. Each time, the roof was blown off and it was repaired to make it look like the original building. On the windows out side are crude hand made wooden shutters. The wooden platform or porch on the front rotted and was replaced some years ago by a concrete platform.

There have been very few changes made in the interior. Just inside, between the two doors, is a platform with two little stands one on each side of a pulpit, and two chairs. The stands and pulpit are the original hand made ones, the chairs were replaced in about 1890. In front of the platform facing the audience is a bench and east of it is a large walnut communion table which looks as if it was also hand made. The room is lighted by kerosene lamps, some suspended from the ceiling and others placed on the stands on the platform. The seats are hand made straight back pews, a few of which have been replaced by chairs. On the north and south sides of the room are stoves which burn wood. The pipes lead into a single chimney which extends from the floor to the roof and stands in the middle of the west part of the room. In the south west corner of the church is a large wooden wood-box.

The burial ground is to the east and south of the church. There are about one hundred and sixty marked graves and many unmarked. The oldest tombstone is dated 1772-1843 and the last one 1889-1936. The former marks the first and the latter marks the sixth of the six generations buried there. There are also other families with





three and others of four generations buried in the church yard.

Near the church along Lynn Creek were many oak trees. Some distance north of the church stood a large oak tree, At the time the church was built, it was considered that the land that lay north and east of this tree was unfit for farming but today it is some of the best farm land in the state.

In 1923, the membership of the church at Oak Grove had become so small that the trustees, Elizabeth (Reny Hull) Hobson, David Gates and Lorena (Lyon) Dallner deeded the church and the two acres of ground to the Oak Grove Cemetery Association, which had been formed in 1921. The deed was made April 11, 1923 and filed Dec. 18, 1923 in Deed book 153 Page 26 Henry Co., Iowa.

Across the road west from the church stands the old brick school house known as Oak Grove School. It has been some what modernized inside and is still in use. At present no record earlier than 1900 can be found, but old settlers say it is the second brick building on the site. The first was condemned and the present building built about or before 1855. An old log building was used while the new brick house was built. Deborah White was the teacher in 1855 and Oscar Kitts of Mt. Pleasant born in 1849 was a pupil.

Thus the Oak Grove Church stands as a worthy monument to the pioneers who contributed so much to the development and progress of the state of Iowa.





## CEMETERY

"The stones of a cemetery are eloquent, speaking tragically of mans evanescence, often telling the story of an entire family which was born, lived and finally recieved into that sod from which it sprung. The Oak Grove cemetery contains the history of the Lyon and Remy families, of which three generations of the former and six generations of the later are buried there. William and Elizabeth (Allensworth) Remy, the oldest Remys buried there were at first buried in another place, and were later removed to Oak Grove. The Remy and Lyon families are closely related thru the marriage of William H. Lyon, the pioneer, to the granddaughter, and thru the marriage of his son Peter to the greatgrand daughter of the Remys".

These people were not only pioneers of Henry Co. Iowa, but were pioneers of several other states and were descendants of pioneers of the U.S.A., the genealogy of which is given at the end of this history.

LYON and REMY families. buried in Oak Grove.

### First generation.

William C. Remy, b. March 2 1772 d. Sept. 22 1843.  
Elizabeth (Allensworth) Remy wife of Wm. Remy b. March 27 1778,  
d. March 29, 1850.

### Second generation.

Henry Stansbury, b. Dec. 25, 1791 d. March 28, 1865. Veteran of War of 1812.  
Catherine (Remy) Stansbury, wife of Henry Stansbury and daughter of William and Elisabeth Remy, b. Sept. 15, 1794. d. Dec. 17 1882.

### Third generation.

1. William Hardin Lyon b. Oct. 22 1798 d. Dec. 29, 1884. Civil War Veteran.  
Harriet (Stansbury Hutchinson) Lyon second wife of William H. Lyon, first the wife of Wm. Hutchinson, dau. of Henry and Catherine Stansbury b. May, 15 1815, d. Nov. 30 1893
2. John Hull b. Aug. 10 1809 d. Sept 23 1855.  
Sarah (Stansbury) Hull Rowland, wife of John Hull and daughter of Henry and Catherine Stansbury b. Dec. 6, 1816 d. Mar. 5 1892.





J.B.Rowland b.Mar. 12-1807 d. June, 2-1891.

3. Thomas Sater b.Nov. 15-1817 d.Sept. 19-1895.  
Elizabeth (Stansbury) Sater, wife of Thomas Sater and daughter  
of Henry and Catherine (Remy) Stansbury b. Feb. 16-1820, d.  
Feb. 11-1902.

#### Fourth Generation.

- 1- Aaron Sater b. Mar. 28-1830 d. July 17-1895.  
Amanda (Hutchinson) Sater, wife of Aaron Sater and daughter of  
William and Harriet (Stansbury) Hutchinson b. Aug. 18-1834  
d. Nov. 11-1901.
- 2- Elizabeth (Hutchinson) Lawrence Campbell, wife of William  
Lawrence and second Campbell, and daughter of William and  
Harriet (Stansbury) Hutchinson, b. Nov. 20-1840 d. December  
23-1911.
- 3- Franklin Humbertson Lyon, son of William and Harriet (Stansbury  
Hutchinson) Lyon b. Feb. 5-1848, d. Feb. 27-1928.  
Maria Elizabeth (Salzer) Lyon, wife of Frank Lyon b. Feb. 9-1845  
d. April 6-1914.
- 4- Phylander Hull, son of John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull, b. Feb. 10  
1835 d. Mar. 3-1843.
- 5- Peter William Lyon, son of William and Mary (Brittain) Lyon,  
b. Mar. 14-1832 d. July 21-1909.  
Catherine (Hull) Lyon, daughter of John and Sarah (Stansbury)  
Hull, and wife of Peter Lyon, b. May 5-1837, d. Oct. 20-1918.
- 6- Sylvester Hull, son of John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull, b.  
Aug. 23-1841, d. June 4-1844.
- 7- Henry C. Hull, son of John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull, b. May 24  
1845. d. May 29, 1876.  
May Elizabeth (Ramey) Hull Robson, daughter of John J. and  
Emeline (Thomas) Ramey or Remy, granddaughter of William and  
Elizabeth Remy, and wife of Henry Hull, b. Jan. 15-1845, d.  
Oct. 19-1935.
- 8- Sylvanus Hull, son of John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull, b. Sept.  
26-1847 d. Oct. 3-1864. Veteran Civil War, 45 Inf.
- 9- John Thomas Hull, son of John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull, b.  
Jan. 20-1850 d. Aug. 3-1866.
- 10- Elizabeth (Hull) Anderson, daughter of John and Sarah (Stansbury)  
Hull and wife of David M. Anderson, b. May 22-1852, d. Sept. 1-  
1874.
- 11- Rebecca J. Sater, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Stansbury)  
Sater, d. Sept. 23-1853, aged 7 months and 29 days.
- 12- Thomas H. Rowland, son of J.B. Rowland d. Sept. 20-1864, aged  
22 years- 10 months- 11 days. Veteran Civil War- Co. A,  
45 Inf.

#### Fifth Generation.

- 1- Eva (Lyon) Roach, Daughter of Frank and Maria (, Salzer) Lyon,  
and wife of Charles A. Roach, b. June 5-1870, d. July 4-1895.
- 2- Iddie May Lyon, daughter of Frank and Maria Lyon, d. June 13  
1854 aged 1 year, 1 mo. and 9 days.
- 3- Etta (Lyon) Scheffel, daughter of Peter and Catherine (Hull) Lyon,  
and wife of Jacob Scheffel, b. May 4-1868 d. July 28-1928.

#### Sixth Generation.

Grover Traut, son of George and Etta (Hull) Traut, grandson  
of Henry and Elizabeth (Remy) Hull, b. Mar. 1889, d. Jan. 1926.





### Fifth generation.

- 1- Eva (Lyon) Roach, daughter of Frank and Maria (Salver) Lyon, and wife of Charles A. Roach, b. June 5-1870, d. July 4, 1895.
- 2- Iddie Mae Lyon, daughter of Frank and Maria (Salver) Lyon, d. June 13, 1854 aged 1 year, 1 month and 9 days.
- 3- Jacob Scheffel, son of Cajeton and Elizabeth (Hiern) Scheffel b. Dec. 20, 1859, d. May 17, 1939.  
Etta (Lyon) Scheffel daughter of Peter and Catherine (Hull) Lyon and wife of Jacob Scheffel, b. May 4, 1868, d. July 28, 1928.
- 4-Ettna (Hull) Traut, daughter of Henry C. and Elizabeth (Remy) Hull and wife of George Traut, b. April 11, 1868, d. October 25 1939.

### Sixth generation.

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Grover Traut, son of George and Ettna (Hull) Traut b. Mar. 1889, d. January 1936.

Infant son of J.I. Sater d. August 8, 1902. (Unidentified as to relationship or generation)

The five generations of the ancestors of Iva Scheffel and Ora Scheffel Anderson are as follows;

- 1st. generation William and Elizabeth (Allensworth) Remy.
- 2nd. generation Henry and Catherine (Remy) Stansbury.
- 3rd. generation John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull.
- 4th. generation Peter and Catherine (Hull) Lyon.
- 5th. generation Jacob and Etta (Lyon) Scheffel.

The six generations of one family are as follows:

- 1st. generation William and Elizabeth (Allensworth) Remy.
- 2nd. generation Henry and Catherine (Remy) Stansbury.
- 3rd. generation John and Sarah (Stansbury) Hull.
- 4th. generation Henry C. and Elizabeth (Ramey) Hull.
- 5th. generation Ettna (Hull) Traut wife of George Traut.
- 6th. generation Grover Traut son of George and Ettna Traut.





105 W. Adams Street  
Fairfield, Iowa.  
February 27, 1940.

Mr. L.B. Schmidt  
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I have noticed your articles on the history of early Iowa in the Des Moines paper and thought you might be able to give me some advise. Here is my problem.

You will see from the inclosed history that there is an old church and cemetery in Henry Co., Iowa. This church and cemetery is badly in need of funds for its upkeep. My sister and I wrote went through the minutes of the old church records which were in the possession of our aunt, the last clerk of the church. These records are complete from the founding of the church in Iowa, and are in two volumes, one now yellow with age.

From these minutes we wrote the history hoping we would be able to interest people in helping us finance it. There are many graves in the cemetery with relatives and friends unknown and many that are known do not seem interested enough to help us financially. How would you advise us to try to develope this interest.

You will see that our parents are among the list of the fifth generation buried in the semetery, so we are tremendously interested and have paid our share but cannot finance the whole affair. There are 160 marked and many unmarked graves in the cemetery. Our six generations are only a part of the cemetery you see.

From our splendid start we have been able to trace our mothers ancestors back in many lines. We intend to file this together with our history in the Historical Library at Des Moines.

Yours very truly



















